

eral and more gratifying interest in the formation of county associations of teachers; and very recently a number of counties have applied for constitutions, while I really believe that if no accident prevent, a large proportion of the counties in the State can be enlisted in the matter in the course of a year. We are just in the midst of a most interesting crisis in this respect; the way is at last prepared, the iron is hot, and I am impatient to strike. There can be no objection to a general act of incorporation for these associations, where no pecuniary aid and no improper privileges are asked; and if spared, I will furnish the outlines of a bill, which I sincerely hope will pass. The advantages of these county associations of teachers and friends of general education are incalculable; and this assertion is based on facts as well as reason.

Years ago, a certain county of the State contained an imperfect organization of the kind, and although it lasted but a little while, and had few of the advantages of those now proposed, its effects are still most obvious, while it so elevated the standard of common school teachers' qualifications, and gave them such position and character, that teachers from that county are in demand and are employed in nearly every part of the State.

5. *District Associations of teachers, or Teachers' Institutes.*

—It is known that a permanent State educational association was formed under most happy auspices, at the recent educational convention, held in Salisbury. This society will be of immense service in uniting the friends of education in the college, the academy and common school—in stimulating the cause, in disseminating useful knowledge, in enhancing the dignity of the calling, and in assisting in the formation of county, affiliated societies. Those latter will act more directly and chiefly on common school teachers—the former will be chiefly participated in by professors, classical teachers and leading friends of the cause.

Now, there ought to be an intermediate association between the county and State society; and if the State should extend no aid to the Library Association on the plan heretofore recommended, I most earnestly invoke its assistance in behalf